

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

JAMES A. RUSSELL,	:	
	:	Civil Action No. 10-6080 (NLH)
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	MEMORANDUM OPINION
	:	
MARK A. KIRBY,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

APPEARANCES:

Plaintiff pro se
James A. Russell
55452-066
FCI Fairton
P.O. Box 420
Fairton, NJ 08320

HILLMAN, District Judge

Plaintiff James A. Russell, a prisoner confined at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fairton, New Jersey, seeks to bring this civil action in forma pauperis, without prepayment of fees or security. Plaintiff has captioned this civil action, in which he seeks an order directing Warden Kirby to provide medical care and to service the heating system in Plaintiff's cell, as a "Writ of Mandamus Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651 and/or 28 U.S.C. § 1361." Subsequent to his initial filing, Plaintiff has filed a Motion for Order to Show Cause and Temporary Restraining Order (docket entry 2) and Motion to Appoint Counsel (docket entry 3).

Civil actions brought in forma pauperis are governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1915. The Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Pub. L.

No. 104-135, 110 Stat. 1321 (April 26, 1996) (the "PLRA"), which amends 28 U.S.C. § 1915, establishes certain financial requirements for prisoners who are attempting to bring a civil action or file an appeal in forma pauperis.

This action is a civil action governed by the PLRA. See, e.g., Martin v. Grimshaw, 198 F.3d 248 (Table), 1999 WL 1021705 (6th Cir. 1999) (mandamus action under 28 U.S.C. § 1361 is a "civil action" for purposes of PLRA); Martin v. U.S., 96 F.3d 853 (7th Cir. 1996) (same); In re Nagy, 89 F.3d 115, 116 (2d Cir. 1996) (PLRA applies to § 1361 mandamus actions that seek relief analogous to civil rights complaints); Evans v. McConnell, 2009 WL 1560192 (W.D. Pa. June 3, 2009); Keys v. Dept. of Justice, 2009 WL 648926 at *1, *3 (M.D. Pa. Mar. 10, 2009). Cf. Madden v. Myers, 102 F.3d 74, 76-77 n.2 (3d Cir. 1996) (declining to decide whether PLRA applies to § 1361 actions in the nature of mandamus) with Franco v. Bureau of Prisons, 207 Fed.Appx. 145, 2006 WL 3521880 (3d Cir. 2006) (affirming district court dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) of action for § 1361 writ of mandamus against Bureau of Prisons, and dismissing appeal under § 1915(e)(2)(B)).

Under the PLRA, a prisoner seeking to bring a civil action in forma pauperis must submit an affidavit, including a statement of all assets, which states that the prisoner is unable to pay the fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). The prisoner also must submit

a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement(s) for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). The prisoner must obtain this certified statement from the appropriate official of each prison at which he was or is confined. Id.

Even if the prisoner is granted in forma pauperis status, the prisoner must pay the full amount of the \$350 filing fee in installments. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). In each month that the amount in the prisoner's account exceeds \$10.00, until the \$350.00 filing fee is paid, the agency having custody of the prisoner shall assess, deduct from the prisoner's account, and forward to the Clerk of the Court an installment payment equal to 20 % of the preceding month's income credited to the prisoner's account. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).

Plaintiff must pay the filing fee, and even if the full filing fee, or any part of it, has been paid, the Court must dismiss the case if it finds that the action: (1) is frivolous or malicious; (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (3) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). If the Court dismisses the case for any of these reasons, the PLRA does not suspend installment payments of the filing fee or permit the prisoner to get back the filing fee, or any part of it, that has already been paid.

In this action, Plaintiff failed to submit a complete in forma pauperis application as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), (2), including a certified account statement. See, e.g., Tyson v. Youth Ventures, L.L.C., 42 Fed.Appx. 221 (10th Cir. 2002); Johnson v. United States, 79 Fed.Cl. 769 (2007). Here, Plaintiff submitted a handwritten "Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis" but did not provide the required six-months certified account statement.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Plaintiff's request for leave to proceed in forma pauperis will be denied without prejudice and the Clerk of the Court will be ordered to administratively terminate this action, without filing the complaint or assessing a filing fee. Plaintiff will be granted leave to move to re-open within 30 days.¹

An appropriate Order will be entered.

At Camden, New Jersey

/s/ NOEL L. HILLMAN

Noel L. Hillman

Dated: December 13, 2010

United States District Judge

¹ Such an administrative termination is not a "dismissal" for purposes of the statute of limitations, and if the case is reopened pursuant to the terms of the accompanying Order, it is not subject to the statute of limitations time bar if it was originally filed timely. See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266 (1988) (prisoner mailbox rule); McDowell v. Delaware State Police, 88 F.3d 188, 191 (3d Cir. 1996); see also Williams-Guice v. Board of Education, 45 F.3d 161, 163 (7th Cir. 1995).